

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 403 922

IR 056 323

TITLE Music for Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals. Fact Sheet.

INSTITUTION Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

PUB DATE Jan 96

NOTE 6p.

AVAILABLE FROM Electronic version:

PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Reference Materials - Directories/Catalogs (132)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS *Audiotape Recordings; Biographies; *Blindness; Books; *Braille; Information Services; *Large Type Materials; Library Collections; *Library Services; *Music; Musical Composition; Music Education; Musicians; Periodicals; *Physical Disabilities; Special Libraries; User Needs (Information)

IDENTIFIERS Library of Congress; *National Library Service for the Blind

ABSTRACT

With the cooperation of composers and publishers who grant permission to use copyrighted works, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) of the Library of Congress selects and produces music scores in braille and large-print formats, and music magazines and books about music and musicians in large-print, braille, and recorded formats. People interested in music materials receive them directly from NLS in Washington, D.C.; materials are sent to borrowers and returned to NLS by postage-free mail. Music patrons nationwide can call the NLS at a toll-free number. Anyone who is unable to read or use standard printed materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations may receive service. Six music magazines are offered by direct mail to eligible readers. The music collection, made up of about 30,000 books, scores, and instructional recordings, is a major resource for blind, partially sighted, and physically handicapped musicians, music students, and others who enjoy music. Materials in braille make up the largest portion of the collection. Enlarged scores with a minimum of 14-point type size and a staff size of one inch are available for voice, piano, and other instruments. The material on audio discs and cassettes includes music theory, appreciation, and history; biographical sketches of musicians and their art; interviews and master classes; and instruction for various instruments. Musical recordings intended solely for entertainment are not part of the free program. An order form is included, along with a checklist of materials. (AEF)

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National Library Service for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped

Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542

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***** FACT SHEET *****

Music for Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals

January 1996

A special music collection for blind and physically handicapped individuals was authorized by Congress in 1962 as part of the free national library program of braille and recorded books and magazines administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress. With the cooperation of composers and publishers who grant permission to use copyrighted works, NLS selects and produces music scores in braille and large-print formats and music magazines and books about music and musicians in large-print, braille, and recorded formats.

People interested in music materials receive them directly from NLS in Washington, D.C., rather than through the NLS network of cooperating libraries that circulates general reading materials and loans playback machines to eligible patrons. Music materials are sent to borrowers and returned to NLS by postage-free mail. Music patrons nationwide can call NLS toll free at 800-424-8567.

Eligibility

Anyone who is unable to read or use standard printed materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations may receive service. A survey sponsored by NLS found that two million persons with some type of visual impairment may be eligible and another million with physical conditions such as paralysis, missing arms or hands, lack of muscle coordination, or prolonged weakness could benefit from the use of reading materials in recorded form.

Magazines

Six music magazines are offered by direct mail to eligible readers. Stereo Review, containing reviews of audio recordings and equipment, and Contemporary Sound Track: A Review of Pop, Jazz, Rock, and Country, an NLS-compiled sampler of articles from national magazines, are available on flexible audio disc. The Quarterly Music Magazine Program, also on flexible audio disc, consists of four different and complete music magazine issues a year. The Musical Mainstream, another NLS-compiled sampler, is produced in large print and braille and on flexible audio disc, and includes current articles on classical music and music education reprinted from national magazines. The Braille Music Magazine, containing articles from British magazines about classical music and music criticism, is produced in braille by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Popular Music Lead Sheets is published in braille by NLS. It contains melodies, lyrics, and chords to popular songs ranging from "golden oldies" to recent hits.

The Collection

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The music collection, made up of some 30,000 books, scores, and instructional recordings, is a major resource for blind, partially sighted, and physically handicapped musicians, music students, and others who enjoy music.

Braille

Materials in braille make up the largest portion of the collection and include the standard repertoire for most instruments, vocal and choral music, some popular music, librettos, textbooks, instructional method books, and music periodicals. Braille is purchased comprehensively from international sources. The NLS Music Section also serves as an international clearinghouse for information about music that has been transcribed into braille and is available for individual purchase or for international interlibrary loan or purchase.

Large Print

Enlarged scores with a minimum of 14-point type size and a staff size of one inch are available for voice, piano, and other instruments. Patrons can also borrow books about music, including opera librettos, biographies of popular and classical musicians, general music histories, and some music reference books.

Recorded

The material on audio discs and cassettes includes music theory, appreciation, and history; biographical sketches of musicians and examples of their art; interviews and master classes; and instruction for various instruments.

Courses for beginning guitar, piano, organ, accordion, recorder, and voice, and in modern harmony have been purchased or specifically developed for the NLS program. Musical recordings intended solely for entertainment, however, are not part of the free library program since these materials are readily available from stores and local libraries.

For Further Information

More information, including applications and catalogs of brailled, recorded, and large-print music materials, may be obtained by writing or calling NLS or by completing and mailing the attached preaddressed form. The toll-free number is 800-424-8567.

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ORDER FORM

Please send the information checked on this form to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

APPLICATION FOR FREE LIBRARY SERVICE

Eligibility Requirements and Application Form (Individual)

(in English) print _____
(in Spanish) print _____

CATALOGS AND SUPPLEMENTS

RECORDINGS

Circular No. 1 (June 1993), Recorded Courses
large print___

Instructional Cassette Recordings Catalog, 1991
large print___ 15/16 ips cassette___

Circular No. 15 (September 1995), Instructional Cassette
Recordings Catalog, Supplement 1992-1995
large print___

Circular No. 18 (February 1993), Instructional Disc Recordings
large print___

BRAILLE

Choral

Braille Scores Catalog--Choral, 1979
large print___ braille___

Circular No. 13 (January 1991),
Braille Scores Catalog--Choral: Supplement A
large print___ braille___

Instrumental

Braille Scores Catalog--Instrumental, 1980
large print___ braille___

Circular No. 14 (January 1991),
Braille Scores Catalog--Instrumental: Supplement A
large print___ braille___

Organ

Braille Scores Catalog--Organ, 1994
large print___ braille___

Piano

Braille Scores Catalog--Piano, 1979
large print___ braille___

Circular No. 3 (May 1993),
Piano Methods in Braille
large print___ braille___

Circular No. 8 (June 1993),
Braille Piano Music Produced by NLS: 1979-1992
large print___ braille___

Vocal

Braille Scores Catalog--Vocal; Part I: Classical, 1983
large print___ braille___

Braille Scores Catalog--Vocal; Part II: Popular, 1983
large print___ braille___

Braille Scores Catalog--Vocal; Part II:
Popular, Supplement 1982-1992,

large print___ braille___

Circular No. 10 (May 1989),
Braille Scores Catalog--Vocal; Part 1: Classical, Supplement A
large print___ braille___

LARGE PRINT

Large-Print Scores and Books Catalog, 1991
large print___

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Music Reading

Circular No. 2 (December 1991), Music Reading and Writing Aids
large print___

Circular No. 11 (June 1990), Books on Braille Music Notation
large print___ braille___

Dictionary of Braille Music Signs
large print___ braille___

Do You Know This Tune? (braille music sample)
large print/braille___

Special Topics and Materials

Circular No. 4 (August 1995), Braille Music Transcribers
large print___ braille___

Circular No. 5 (July 1992), Music Periodicals Available from NLS
large print___

Circular No. 16 (September 1995), Opera Librettos and Lectures
large print___

Circular No. 17 (November 1992),
Christmas Music and Instructional Recordings: A Selected List
large print___

Circular No. 19 (November 1993), College Texts about Music
large print___

Music Is for Everyone (brochure)
large print___ braille___

There's More Than One Way to Read Music (brochure)
large print/33-1/3 rpm disc___

Sample CONTEMPORARY SOUND TRACK
8 rpm disc___

Sample MUSICAL MAINSTREAM
large print___ 8 rpm disc___ braille___

Sample POPULAR MUSIC LEAD SHEETS
braille___

Send this order form to:

Reference Section
National Library Service
for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542

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